



Pen City Current

Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019 | 8 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 233

ELECTION 2019

Mohrfeld city's next mayor

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Current city councilman Matt Mohrfeld will move three seats to his right in January and pick up the gavel as the city's next mayor.



MOHRFELD

Mohrfeld garnered 819 of 1462 votes for 56% in a turnout that was about 33 percent higher than the 2017 election.

Mohrfeld said he campaigned for the job with the intention of doing the job.

"Getting elected is easy, now you gotta roll up your sleeves and do the job," he said. "Tomorrow morning I have to sit down and balance what I do at work, with coaching, and doing the job of Mayor."

Newcomer Joe Helmick got 516 votes in what he called a last-minute decision to enter the race for mayor.

"I already called and congratulated Matt," Joe said at about 10:30 Tuesday night. "I told him I thought I did pretty good for a butcher."

Helmick said the race has only energized him to seek election again on the next ballot and said he will look at winning a council seat to learn more about city government. He didn't rule out another run for mayor down the road.

"I think a lot of people want a change. I'm planning on running for city council and I think after spending some time on the council I'd be ready (for another mayoral run)."

Rodney Hoskins received 18 votes and said he was



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

First Ward voters line up at Council Chambers at City Hall Tuesday to vote in the city/school election. Matt Mohrfeld was elected Fort Madison's next mayor, while Kevin Rink and Rebecca Bowker both won their races. Dianne Hope, Joshua Wykert, Lois DiPrima and Carol Ross were all elected to the Fort Madison School Board. DiPrima beat out Jared Hotop by 10 votes.

happy to see the amount of voters that turned out.

"I just pretty much want to thank the people that voted more and congratulate Matt," Hoskins said.

"I was glad that everyone that was eligible to vote did. We did have a better turnout than previous years and I'm happy that people came to vote."

Mohrfeld said he thinks the school board election

was one of the reasons why voter turnout was high, but said the controversy surrounding the golf cart/ATV ordinance also brought people to the polls.

"There's no doubt about the election having some single things that were controversial. But I ran for mayor because I wanted to do the job for the people

See CITY, page 3

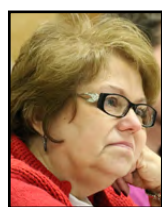
DiPrima edges Hotop by just 10 for fourth school board seat

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The closest race of the night was for the fourth and final board seat on the Fort Madison School Board.

Incumbent Lois DiPrima edged Jared Hotop by 10 votes for the fourth most votes on the evening. The slim margin of 984 to 974 could prompt a recall by Hotop.

Josh Wykert was defeated in last year's special election after being put on the board to replace Gayla Young who died at the beginning of 2018, but was overwhelming approved by voters Tuesday with 1,166 votes of approximately 1,500 district residents voting. Dianne Hope was the top vote getter with 1,282.



HOPE



WYKERT

"I guess I hope it would be the work I've done," she said explaining the large support.

"That I've been here for so long and people know me and I've been out there in volunteer situa-

tions. I kind of hope it's both," she said.

She said she was impressed with the larger voter turnout and attributes it to the combination of city and school elections, as well as people being tuned in to what's going on in the school district.

The plan is to continue doing what's best for the district's students, she said.

"I just want to stay on the same course. We're working for the kids and working to ensure all the students are given the best educational opportunities we can," Hope said.

"We're working hard to solve the facility issues and we have to keep our eye on finances.

"I do want to thank everyone that came out to vote. It's humbling to see how many votes I did get and I thank every one of the people that voted for me."

Wykert said the day was a whirlwind of anticipation and anxiety.

"I really don't know how presidential candidates do it. I'm exhausted. But I'm excited to get things going.

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Obituaries/Lee County News

County looking into new ordinance for livestock

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A plea from a rural Lee County woman Tuesday morning created a clearer picture for the supervisors that something needs to be done about wandering livestock.

At the Lee County Board of Supervisors' regular meeting Tuesday, Rebecca Schau, of Franklin Township asked Supervisors what could be done about horses that had been taking out some of her fencing and are becoming a menace on her property.

"It's been an ongoing issue for about two years and here in the last week we've called the sheriff's office – myself and my neighbors – five to seven times," Schau said.

"They're running down the roads going through our fences, through our yards, and have let our livestock out at our house. Somebody's going to get seriously hurt. We have large hills out on our gravel and you come over the top of them and there are six of them standing there."

She said she's visited with Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber about the issue. Weber said he's already been working with the county.

"It is the same owner of horses that we dealt with when Sheriff Scholl was in charge," Weber said. "It's a prime example of why I've been visiting with the county attorney's office in regards to a livestock ordinance in the county."

Weber said he's been apprehensive to bring the issue to the board because of the recent negativity around the parking ordinance discussion.

"Miss Schau is absolutely correct, it's extremely dangerous."

Schau said she went out to check on why her dogs were barking and stepped around the home and was almost hit by the horses in her yard.

Board Chairman Gary Folluo told Schau the first place to start would be with the Franklin Township Board because it has to do with property fences and township trustees have authority there.

Supervisor Rich Harlow asked a hypothetical about the horses being on her property and she feels threatened. He compared to the issue to a recent issue in Des Moines County where a deputy sheriff shot a dog that was on another person's property.

"You're fearing for your life and your well-being so you shoot and kill one of these horses on your property, Then the sheriff gets called he comes out and he finds the dead horse on your property. What are you gonna do?"

Weber said he hopes that things don't come to that. He said there's a whole lot to the issue that he's trying to work through.

Schau said she would never shoot the horses.

"We never would. We're just reaching out because I have teenage boys that are driving as well. Even myself wouldn't be real experienced coming over a hill and seeing six horses in the middle of the road. Someone's going to get hurt," she said.

Supervisor Ron Fedler said if the horses were being well-fed and well-cared for there would be no need for them to be wandering.

Weber said deputies that have responded to the calls said the horses are in good condition, but it's a large wooded area and they are wandering after getting out of fencing.

Folluo directed her to the Township Board, but Weber said the sheriff's department is already involved in that process. Folluo asked Weber to keep the board apprised of the progress "if any".

"Oh...there's gonna be progress," Weber said.

OBITUARIES

JOAN M. BENTLER

Joan M. Bentler, 90, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 7:45 p.m. on Monday, November 4, 2019 at The Kensington. She was born on March 21, 1929 in St. Paul, IA to Stephen & Rosine Pollmiller Holtkamp.


She married Francis "Frank" Bentler on October 10, 1950 in Houghton, IA. She was the owner & operator of Celebration Bridal Shop and Bentler Rental with her husband for many years. She was a member of Ss. Mary & Joseph Church and the Altar & Rosary Society and enjoyed shopping, traveling, lawn bowling & wintering in Florida.

Joan is survived by: her husband: Frank Bentler of Fort Madison, IA; 1-son: Bob (Bonnie) Bentler of Des Peres, MO; 2-daughters: Jeanne (Bob) Drollinger of Wever, IA & Suzanne (Ted) Vonderhaar of West Point, IA; 12-grandchildren: R.J. Bentler, Peter Bentler, Christopher Bentler, Tara Allard, Trent Drollinger, Ted Bentler, Fritz Bentler, Matthew Bentler, Kathleen Boie, Joe Vonderhaar, John Vonderhaar & Maria Vonderhaar; 15-great grandchildren; 1-brother: Ronald (Bonnie) Holtkamp of Burlington, IA & several nieces & nephews. She was preceded in death by: her parents, 2-sons: Thomas & William; 2-sisters: Jane Denning & Edna Fullenkamp; 1-brother: Paul Holtkamp & her half brothers & sisters: Anna Jingst, Mildred Mettenburg, Myrtle Peterschmidt, Alphonse Holtkamp & Stephen Holtkamp.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A visitation will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Friday, November 8, 2019 with a memorial mass to immediately follow at 10:30 a.m. at Ss. Mary & Joseph Church with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. Burial will be held at Gethsemane Cemetery. A memorial has been established for Holy Trinity Catholic Schools. Online condolences to the Bentler family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy
The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

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From the Front/Weather

Voters pick Bowker and Rink in races

CITY - Continued from Page 1

of Fort Madison.”

Mohrfeld said his number one priority at the start of the year will be getting out in front of the budget. He said he'd like to use projections and planning sessions to start crafting a vision for the next 10 years.

Mohrfeld also said he's happy with the way the rest of the election broke on the council.

“I'm really tickled with who the people voters kept in and put on the council. As a mayor, I'm a coach and I'm only as good as a team, but that team got enhanced tonight,” he said.

In the first ward, Iowa State Penitentiary Executive Officer Rebecca Bowker defeated Chris Sorrentino. It was Sorrentino's second shot at elected office after taking on Brad Randolph for mayor two years ago.

Sorrentino said he thinks the golf cart/ATV ordinance had an impact on the election, but also said he was disappointed in the 1st ward turnout. Bowker won with 139 votes, to Sorrentino's 64.

Bowker said via text that she was grateful for the vote of confidence from the people in the first ward.

“I am humbled by the confidence that the first ward has in me,” she wrote. “I look forward to listening to each of you and moving our great city forward.”

Sorrentino said this loss gives him pause.

“After I lost to Brad I wasn't ready to give up. I still had a fight there and I knew that was a big seat,” he said. “But I stayed in it and stayed active. I was just going to step back to the first ward and stay concerned with that. It takes a lot out of you when you do that multiple times and you can get the same results.”

Councilman Kevin Rink will get a fourth term on the council after defeating Jerry Hamelton by 140 votes, 786-646.

“I'm happy to be elected back in with a little bit of experience with the changeover and the knowledge to help move the city forward,” Rink said.

“We have a very good base on the council going forward. Tyler is very good, Rebecca will be very good. She's a thinker and Matt's going to lead us all along the way.”

Hamelton said he was starting his next election

effective immediately.

“I am running for election beginning today. I've learned a lot from this race. There was negativity and that shouldn't happen,” he said.

“Just stick to the facts. Sometimes the facts are unpopular but you have to speak to them.”

Hamelton said he believes that Rink's experience and familiarity with the town won the election for him.

“He's been a councilman for so long and he's so well known. Being in that seat for that long, I think he's a super nice guy. I don't agree with some of his positions, but he's a great guy. But I think that's what swung the election.”

He said the win had a narrow margin which should send a message to the council.

“I think that's pretty close. I almost unseated a veteran incumbent so I hope that sends a message to current city council that the route they are going is the wrong way. Listen to people more diligently and spend the budget more responsibly,” he said.

Hamelton said he wouldn't challenge current councilman Bob Morawitz for 2nd ward if Morawitz runs in two years.

“I will run in two years and if Mr. Morawitz is running for his seat I will not run against him, we will run for at-large.”

Chad Cangas and Tyler Miller were both elected unopposed.



RINK



BOWKER

Hope, Ross, and Wykert win board seats

SCHOOL - Continued from Page 1

I'm really just kind of in awe right now.”

He said there have been some things on the board that have created some controversy and he said that brought people to the polls, but joining it with the city election also helped bring people out.

The board only changed by one person, but Wykert said the makeup has a good mix and should be an effective board.

“To me it looks good. I think voters couldn't have gone wrong with any of the six candidates,” he said.

“We have financially minded people – you've got educators – parents, and that's a really good mix. Seeing the votes split the way they did, voters didn't think one thing over the other.”

Carol Ross was re-elected with 1,086 votes, the third highest total. Candice Smrt received 567 votes on the night.

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THU 07 Nov



Scattered Clouds
High- 33.7° F | Low - 23.6° F

FRI 08 Nov



Overcast
High- 33.7° F | Low - 27.2° F

SAT 09 Nov



Sunny
High- 48.1° F | Low - 43.7° F

SUN 10 Nov



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[OpenWeatherMap](#)

Current-Lee/Lottery Numbers

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CURRENT-LEE

The following is a list of current events and happenings in Fort Madison and north Lee County as submitted to the Pen City Current.

YMCA Daddy Daughter Dance

The annual dance will be held Nov. 8th at the Fort Madison Elks Lodge from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cost is \$20 per couple for YMCA members, \$30 per couple for non-members. \$5 for additional children. Registration deadline is Nov. 1.

Weekly Book Sale

Friends of the Fort Madison Public Library is holding a weekly book sales from 11 a.m to 1 p.m. on Thursday's at the Public Library.

Flashlight Maze Nights

Each Saturday, weather permitting, the Harvestville Farm Corn Maze will be open from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. with last entry at 9:30 p.m. Bring your own flashlight. For more information call 319-470-1558.

Lighted Parade Float Work Nights

Float work nights for the annual holiday lighted parade are held every Monday starting Sept. 30 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 1200 Avenue I. Entrance is through the back. Call the Chamber at 319-372-5471 for more information.

Health Care Career Expo

Southeast Community College will hold a Health care career exposition on Nov. 7 for high school juniors and seniors sponsored by SCC and The Link.

Food Drive

The Keokuk Salvation Army is looking for donations to stock the Food and Soap Pantry from Nov. 1 -18th. Drop off locations locally include American Eyecare

SCC Vendor Blender

A vendor blender will be held on Nov. 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with proceeds benefiting SCC student club activities. \$3 admission and lunch will be available in the SCC cafeteria from 11:30 to 1 p.m.

Kensington events

The Kensington is offering Senior's Only Community Bingo on the second Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m. The event is free for seniors and cash prizes are awarded. Caregivers Connection is held the 4th Tuesday of every month at noon. Call 319-372-4233 to reserve your seat.

Lee County Health Department clinics

LCHD will hold a Flu shot Clinic at Montrose Public Library from 9 to 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 4 and at Twin Oaks Apts in Denmark from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5. A flu shot clinic will also be held at Newberry Center in Fort Madison from 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Nov. 7.



IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America SM	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



11/4
28 34 42 44 48
Lucky Ball: 15



11/4 MID-DAY
4 2 2
11/4 EVENING
3 8 2



11/4 MID-DAY
0 5 3 0
11/4 EVENING
8 9 0 2

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Sports

“This one’s special”

Crusaders take Freesmeier to 10th straight state tourney

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – The 10th consecutive trip to the state tournament for Holy Trinity’s volleyball team is one that was built over the entire season.



FREESMEIER

Which is why coach Melissa Freesmeier got a little emotional after the Crusaders’ four-set win over New London in Tuesday’s Class 1A regional final at Fort Madison High School.

“This one’s special,” Freesmeier said. “From the beginning of the year, we fought. These kids grew up right in front of our eyes.

“It means everything,” said junior Claire Pothitakis, who led Holy Trinity with 18 kills. “We’ve been going for the past nine years. To go another time, it’s just amazing.”

“Every year it’s special, every year it’s a new group,” said sophomore Kassi Randolph, who had 11 kills. “We worked really hard. We knew our ultimate goal was to get to state, and we did it.”

The 23-25, 25-14, 25-20, 25-21 win over the Tigers sent Holy Trinity (28-10) to next week’s state tournament in Cedar Rapids. The Crusaders are the seventh seed, and will play No. 2 seed Council Bluffs St. Albert (24-9) at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Holy Trinity and New London split two matches this season before this matchup,

See **CRUSADERS**, page 8



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Junior Claire Pothitakis attacks against the New London front defense in the fourth set of Tuesday’s four-set win over the 7th ranked Tigers. The Crusaders will enter the state tournament Nov. 13 as the 7 seed.

Senior Abby Dingman (10) reacts to a winning point in the fourth set of the Crusaders’ win over New London Monday night in Class 1A, Region 8 finals.



★ VETERAN'S DAY ★

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Honor your family members that answered the call to serve in our special Veterans Day edition on Monday, November 11th.

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Please include photo (color or black & white), veteran’s name, branch of service, tour(s) of duty, your name and contact information in case of questions. A brief personal message is also welcome.

Submissions are due by the end of the day Friday, November 8th.

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(NOT SHOWN ACTUAL SIZE)

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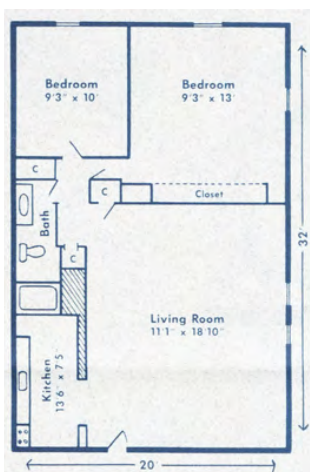
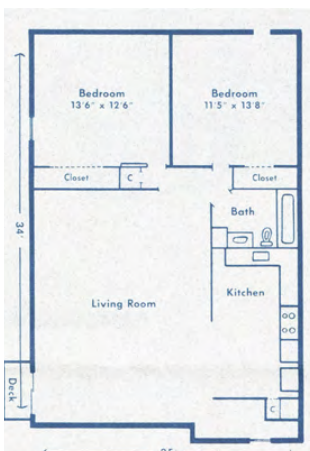


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Sports



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Holy Trinity Catholic Crusaders are Class 1A Region 8 champs and will play in the state volleyball tournament beginning Wednesday, Nov. 13 at the U.S. Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids.



HTC to take on 2nd-seed Council Bluffs St. Albert on Nov. 13

CRUSADERS - Continued from Page 1

and this one appeared to be one that would go the distance. And it started to look like that would be quite possible when New London held a 19-16 lead in the fourth set and had momentum while Pothitakis had rotated out of the game. But so many other Crusaders took over in a stretch when they scored eight of the next nine points. Avery Hopper, Brooke Mueller and Randolph each had two kills in that stretch, and Randolph and Bailey Hellweg combined on a block that set up match point. The Tigers fought off one match point before Mueller's kill finished the match. "We had some other young ones step up and get some kills," Freesmeier said. "They weren't afraid to swing. Avery wasn't afraid to swing, Brooke was there ready to go, and Kassi found herself after Game 1 and did some great things. You can't say enough about our defense — they kept us in the game. "Just a great, great team effort." New London had momentum with the win in the first set, then the Crusaders snatched it back with a dominating second set. The Tigers had early control of the third set before Holy Trinity battled back, ending it on a Mueller kill. The Crusaders started this season 6-4. But they head to state on a five-match winning streak. "I think it was just team unity," Pothitakis said. "We worked harder than ever," Randolph said. "These kids have worked their tails off all week, and all year, to get where they're going," Freesmeier said. "These young kids, they fought hard. They deserved this tonight."

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